

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please amend the specification as follows.

Please replace the paragraph on page 14, lines 4-18 with the following amended paragraph:

At step 404 the node determines whether it is already in failover mode for any of its links. If it is, in the described embodiment, the failover process is finished and an error/abort condition arises and the packet is dropped at step 406. In another preferred embodiment, a full crossbar for failover (as opposed to the two shared failover FIFOs), would allow for simultaneous failover of multiple links. If not, the process continues with step 408 where the node decides which transmitter/link to forward the FOP. As in step 308, the node uses its failover routing tables to make this determination. At this time, the node, such as Node 2 checks whether the target destination for the failover packet (Node 1) is the current node. This can be done by comparing the TNID of the packet to a *node\_id* field in a CSR in the node. If the target node and the current node are the same, the packet has reached its destination leg. A process for handling the packet at a destination node is described in FIG. 5. However, if the target node and the current node are not the same, the processing continues and the packet is routed to the correct outgoing link